

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 29, wherein the valve member is arranged to adopt an idle position in which all four openings are interconnected.

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 29, wherein the valve member is pivotable in the chamber.

Claim 7. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 6, wherein the valve member is pivotable from a normal blood flow position, through an idle position and to a reverse blood flow position.

Claim 8. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 6, wherein the valve member is pivotable through 90°.

Claim 9. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 29, wherein the openings are disposed on the valve housing diametrically opposite to each other.

Claim 10. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 9, wherein the valve chamber is cylindrical and the openings are spaced 90° relative to each other around the chamber.

Claim 11. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 29, wherein the openings are each provided with a respective connector.

Claim 12. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 29, wherein the valve member forms a partition dividing the valve chamber in two portions.

Claim 13. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 12, wherein each of said portions is semi-circular.

Claim 14. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 29, wherein the valve member includes a valve partition that extends into the valve chamber and a wing with which the valve member can be manually moved.

Claim 15. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 14, wherein the valve member includes a shoulder, which limits the pivoting movement of the valve member in the chamber.

Claim 16. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 15, wherein the shoulder cooperates with a groove on the periphery of the valve chamber.

Claim 17. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 16, wherein the groove has recesses defining normal and reverse positions.

Claim 18. (previously presented) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 17, wherein the groove also has a recess defining the idle position.

Claim 19. (currently amended) An extracorporeal circuit claimed in claim 11, wherein a first and a second of said connectors extend diametrically opposite from the valve housing and a third and

a fourth of said connectors are symmetrically inclined by less than 90 degrees with respect to a direction of the first connector.

Claims 20-21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) An extracorporeal circuit according to claim 29 comprising a third line for connecting the circuit outlet connector to the an inlet of a the dialyzer blood compartment, and a fourth line for connecting the circuit inlet connector to an the outlet of the dialyzer blood compartment, and two further lines for connecting the remaining connectors to venous and arterial needles.

23-28 (canceled)

Claim 29. (currently amended) An extracorporeal circuit comprising:

a switch valve comprising:

a valve housing having a chamber,

four openings communicating with the chamber wherein each opening has a peripheral width; and

a connector for each of said openings, said connectors including:

a first blood inlet connector,

a second blood outlet connector,

a circuit inlet connector, and

a circuit outlet connector, wherein the circuit outlet connector is for connection to an inlet of a dialyzer blood compartment and the circuit inlet connector for connection to an outlet of the dialyzer blood compartment;

a dialyzer having a blood compartment and a dialysis fluid compartment separated by a semi-permeable membrane, wherein the blood compartment comprises:

an inlet connected to the circuit outlet connector; and

an outlet connected to the circuit inlet connector;

a first line connected to the first blood connector;
an arterial needle connected to the first line;
a second line connected to the second blood connector;
a venous needle connected to the second line;
a movable valve member located in the valve chamber and movable therein to change the direction of blood flow among the openings, ~~wherein movement of the valve member does not ever fully block any one of the openings~~ said valve member being constructed without dead end portions and further being constructed of a width that is less than the peripheral width of each opening.

Claim 30. (canceled)